AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for pretreating a surface of a non-conducting material to be plated by way of precipitation of a selected precipitation metal in the presence of a catalytic metal, ~~and optionally to be subjected to a subsequent electrolytic plating or another type of surface treatment,~~ **characterised by**

a) depositing an ~~absorbing~~ adsorbing metal oxide on the surface,

b) treating the surface including the adsorbing metal oxide with a solution of transition metal ions, and subsequently

c) treating the surface with a solution of catalytic metal ions,

where the adsorbing metal oxide is selected to adsorb the transition metal ions, the transition metal ions ~~used in step (b)~~ are selected ~~among such ions which can~~ to reduce the catalytic metal ions into catalytic metal, and the catalytic metal is selected to catalyze a subsequent precipitation of the selected precipitation metal.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** the ~~absorbing~~ adsorbing metal oxide in step (a) being manganese dioxide ~~(MNO_2)~~ (MnO_2) or ochre (Fe_2O_3).

Claim 3 (Original): Method according to claim 2, **characterised by** oxidizing the surface in step (a) by means of a permanganate compound while forming manganese dioxide, and by washing away the remaining permanganate compound after the oxidation without removing the formed manganese dioxide deposited in form of a layer or in form of small clusters on the surface

Claim 4 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** treating in step (b) the surface with a solution of Sn^{++} ions or Co^{++} ions.

Claim 5 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** treating in step (b) the surface with an aqueous solution of transition metal ions.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** the catalytic metal ions being ions of a metal from the platinum group~~, preferably Pd^{++}, Rh^{++} or Pt^{++}~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** treating in step ~~c~~ (c) the surface with an aqueous solution of catalytic metal ions.

Claim 8 (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, **characterised by** the non-conducting material including a polymer material ~~as main ingredient~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): Method according to claim 8, **characterised by** the polymer material being selected ~~among~~ from the group consisting of polycarbonate (PC), polyphenlene oxide (PPO), acrylnitrile/-butadiene/styrene-terpolymer (ABS), polyacrylamide (PAA), aliphatic or aromatic polyamide (PA), polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene (PS), polyether imide (PEI), polyphthalamide (PPA), polyphenylene sulphide (PPS), thermoplastic polyester (PET/PBT), liquid crystal polymer (LCP), polyether-ether-ketone (PEEK), polysulphone (PSU), polyethersulphone (PES), polyurethane (PUR), epoxy (EP), unsaturated polyester (UP) and phenolic plastic (PF).

Claim 10 (currently amended): Method according to claim 8, **characterized by** the non-conducting material including a glass, a ceramics or a biological material ~~as main ingredient~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Method according to claim 1, **characterized by** the non-conducting material including a glass, a ceramics or a biological material ~~as main ingredient~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for pretreating a surface of a non-conducting material to be plated by way of precipitation of a selected precipitation metal in the presence of a catalytic metal, and to be subjected to a subsequent electrolytic plating or another type of surface ~~treatement~~ treatment, **characterized by**

a) depositing manganese dioxide (MnO_2) or ochre (Fe_2O_3) on the surface,

b) treating the surface including the manganese dioxide or ochre with a solution of Sn^{++} ions or Co^{++} ions and subsequently,

c) treating the surface with a solution of catalytic metal ions of a metal from the platinum group selected to catalyze a subsequent precipitation of the selected precipitation metal.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An article of non-conducting material with a surface being partially or completely coated with an autocatalytically deposited copper, cobalt, silver, tin, gold or nickel or an alloy thereof, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a pretreatment of a non-conducting article by the method according to claim 1 and followed by an autocatalytic deposition.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An article of a non-conducting material with a surface being partially or completely coated with an electrolytic plating layer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a pretreatment of a non-conducting article by the method according to claim 1 followed by an autocatalytic deposition and then a conventional electrolysis.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An article according to claim 14 ~~with~~ further comprising one or more electrolytic plating layers.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An article according to claim 15 ~~and coated with at least one electrolytic plating layer with~~ wherein at least one of the electrolytic plating layers has a high electric conductivity.

Claim 17 (new): A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of performing a subsequent additional surface treatment.

Claim 18 (new): A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of performing a subsequent electrolytic plating.

Claim 19 (new): A method according to claim 6 wherein the catalytic metal ions are selected from the group consisting of Pd++, Rh++ and Pt++.